MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please ask about this Port. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: That is what I am asking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please answer on this Port. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI G.K. VASAN: Sir, the hon. Member has put the supplementary regarding the capacity of ports. It is an informative question. If the Chair permits, I can give the answer. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can make the information available to the Member after the Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*...

*445. [The questioner (s) (Shri Varinder Singh Bajwa) was absent. For answer *vide* page 25 infra.]

Implementation of Sixth Pay Commission Report

*446. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism put in place by his Ministry to solve various issues arising out of implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission Report;

(b) whether regular meetings of the Departmental Council (JCM) are held by his Ministry;

(c) if so, when was the last such meeting held; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Group C and D employees of the Income Tax Department are agitating for redressal of some of their demands?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Various issues arising out of implementation of Sixth Central Pay Commission's Report are processed by the concerned administrative ministry in consultation with Ministry of Finance and/or Department of Personnel and Training. The Government has also issued instructions for setting up of Anomaly Committees at National and Departmental levels. Ministry of Finance has set up its Departmental Anomally Committee on 6th February, 2009.

(b) and (c) The 79th, 80th, 81st and 82nd meetings of the Departmental Council (JCM) were convened on 26-27 October, 1995; 10-11 July, 2000. 15 April, 2005 and 14 October, 2005 respectively. Regular meetings with the representatives of recognized Service Associations of CBEC and CBDT are held at various levels. The last such meetings were held on 22.7.2009/23.7.2009.

(d) Federation of Group 'C' and 'D' employees in the income Tax Department had notified of a 'day long mass Dharna' for redressal of some of their demands.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as an ex-employee and officer of the Income Tax Department, I am definitely concerned about the welfare of the employees there. In

the very first answer, the hon. Finance Minister has admitted that the Departmental Anomaly Committee for the Finance Ministry was formed on 6th February, 2009. I would like to know as to how many meetings of the same Anomaly Committee, in between 6th February, 2009 till date, have taken place to solve the various anomalies which are pointed out by the Income Tax Employees Federation. Sir, in particular, the Department is very much agitated about the pay scales of Income Tax Inspectors, which is one of the most important cadres doing the work of inquiry, survey, seizure and also assisting the Assessing Officers. So, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to what efforts are being made to solve the anomaly of this particular cadre, along with other cadres.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the meeting of the Anomaly Committee is concerned, in the last quarter, the review meeting has taken place on 22nd July, 2009. As the hon. Member, who himself served this Department with a distinguished career, is aware that it is not merely at the apex level... Even at the Commissionerate-level and at the lower-levels, efforts are being made to resolve the issue relating to the personnel matter, and, particularly, in respect of the pay fixation. After the recommendations of the Pay Commission, naturally, a large number of cadres are being covered by the Pay Commission, and, there may be anomalies. To remove those anomalies and to arrive at an agreed acceptable arrangements, efforts are continuing.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, my second question is about the Joint Consultative Machinery which is one of the most important bodies created after the great 1960 strike. In that regard, I wanted to know whether regular meetings of the said machinery are called or not. I was a member of the Departmental Council of Finance Ministry during 1972-77. In those days the Departmental Council used to be chaired by the learned Revenue Secretary, Dr. I.G. Patel. For some time, the Prime Minister was also presiding. According to my information, that machinery is not functioning properly. Regular meeting of the Departmental Council means every quarter there should be one meeting. So, in a year, there should be four meetings of the Departmental Council of the Finance Ministry. According to the information given by the hon. Finance Minister, only one meeting took place somewhere in 2000 and another took place in 2005, the third meeting took place in October, 2005. The last meeting...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you asking a question or making a speech?

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, it is a serious question; kindly listen to me. Instead of four meetings in a year, only three meetings took place in all these ten years. That is why employees were agitated and they went on strike. I want to avoid the strike. I would request the hon. Finance Minister, who is one of the senior most Cabinet Ministers in the Government of India to see that the Departmental Councils not only of the Finance Ministry, but of all Departments also are functioning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are only making suggestions.

SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: He should see that the Departmental Councils of all Departments are functioning regularly and meeting every quarter so that the issue of the Central Government employees can be solved. I would like to know what actions is he proposing to take.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the Joint Consultative Machinery, which is known as JCM, is concerned, it is true that there has not been any meeting for quite some time and the last three rounds of meetings took place in 2005 itself, that was on 10th and 11th July, 2000, 15th April, 2005 and 14th October, 2005. I will inquire why the meetings have not yet taken place.

But, apart from this mechanism, the other mechanisms, which are in operation, so far as this organisation is concerned are their federation. They are meeting with the member-in charge. Some times, the Chairman also holds this meeting. The last round of the quarterly review, as I have indicated, took place on 22nd July, 2009.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, taking benefit of the presence of the hon. Finance Minister, I would like to ask a larger question relating to the Sixth Pay Commission. We all wish that this Pay Commission needs to be implemented. But, there is a cascading effect, hon. Finance Minister; the employees of the State Governments also want this. Ultimately, the entire State exchequer comes under a severe strain, the cascading effect of borrowing, etc. How do you, with your wide experience, like to address this issue so that the dues are given and the finances of the various State Governments also do not come under serious peril?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, the hon. Member has expanded the scope of the question. The problem is genuine, there is no doubt about it. But, at the same time, the constraint of the federal Finance Minister is also there. When I had interactions with the State Finance Ministers, many of them raised this issue. But for the period of the current financial year, I have provided a little elbow room for the State Governments by permitting them without losing the advantages of following the FRBM by expanding their borrowing power by 0.5 per cent of the State GDP, which will amount to Rs. 21,000 crores. I have suggested to them that, after all, the recommendations of the next Finance Commission are coming and that will cover the remaining period of the period of operation of the Pay Commission.

So, let us wait for the recommendations of the Finance Commission, which will definitely address these issues. But the problem is genuine. At the same time, it is not possible for me to give any blanket assurance that it would be possible for the Union Government to bailout the States in this respect.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Sir, there is difference between the pay structures and other amenities of the employees of the State Governments and the Central Government. It is just like a difference between heaven and hell. This is one of the reasons of agitation by the various State Governments employees. I would like to know whether the Pay Commission constituted by the

Government is bound to see such situations while fixing pay-scales of the Central Government employees; and whether the Government has any mechanism to take into consideration grievances of the State Government employees also, Sir.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as the State Governments are concerned, they are covered by their own Pay Commissions. Several States have constituted Pay Commissions to take care of them and more than often they try to tend to follow the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. That is why these problems are coming. As per the scheme of the Constitution, these are the two Governments deriving power from the Constitution itself to discharge their respective functions.

श्री आर.सी. सिंह: सर, छठे पे-कमीशन के इम्पलीमेंट होने से पहले सरकारी कर्मचारियों को CGHS के रूप में 125 रुपए पर month देने पड़ते थे, लेकिन छठे पे-कमीशन के इम्पलीमेंट होने के बाद 500 रुपए देने पड़ते हैं। उनको पहले लाइफ टाइम मैडिकल फेसेलिटी पाने के लिए 18000 रुपए देने पड़ते थे और अब 1st June 2009 से यह इम्पलीमेंट हुआ है, तो 60000 रुपए देने पड़ते हैं। बहुत सी जगहों पर कुछ employees 31st May को रिटायर हो गए हैं, तो उनका भी 60000 रुपए डिडेक्ट किया जा रहा है, जबकि वह 18000 रुपए होना चाहिए। क्या मंत्री महोदय की इस बारे में कोई उचित व्यवस्था करेंगे?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This is totally outside the purview of this Question. The question was limited to the Anomaly Committee in respect of a particular Department, that is, Income Tax. Therefore, if the hon. Member is interested, he should give notice for a separate Question.

Plan for new airports

*447. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:††

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) how many airports are planned to be made operational in different parts of the country and particularly in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government plans to develop airports at district level in view of the increased requirements of different religious and industrial destinations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) A Feasibility study for revival of 32 non-operational airports belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Tezu airport belonging to State Government, was carried out by M/s RITES, the consultant appointed by AAI. As per the feasibility report submitted by M/s RITES, 13 airports out of 32 were recommended for development which has been accepted by AAI. These 13 airports are Passighat and Tezu (Arunachal Pradesh); Kamalpur (Tripura); Rupsi (Assam);

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.